

Alden (Ed.)

with Dr. Alden's respects.

THE
EARLY HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION
IN
THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK, MASS.

A N A D D R E S S

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NORFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 10, 1853.

✓
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PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY.

FROM THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

26392
BOSTON :

S. K. WHIPPLE & CO.....100 WASHINGTON ST.

1853.

DAVID CLAPP, Printer, Boston.

A D D R E S S .

FELLOWS OF THE NORFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY, AND GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with your appointment, I have collected and propose now to present some historical notices of the medical profession in the County of Norfolk, particularly in relation to its early history. The recorded materials for such a purpose, especially during the first century after its settlement, are indeed scanty; and information obtainable from tradition is becoming every day more vague with the lapse of time. I can only say, that I have consulted original documents whenever they were accessible, and have stated nothing as fact which did not appear to be well authenticated.

I am aware that it may be said that a physician's time may be more profitably employed, than in searching musty records with the view of exhuming the names and reputation of men, who, however useful in their day, have been too long buried out of sight of the present generation to have any interest awakened either in their characters or success in life.

To such a cavil I reply, that every physician is bound to sustain the reputation of his profession by all honorable means; and perhaps in no way, aside from his own virtuous example, can he do this more successfully than by recording the good deeds and perpetuating the memory of the virtues of those who have preceded him in the same line of pursuit.

The life of a physician is at best a monotonous one. His opportunities for social and professional intercourse are infrequent. It is a life of toil, of self-denial—and, with rare exceptions, of inadequate pecuniary compensation. The physician has no time he can properly call his own. Other men engaged in laborious pursuits are permitted to partake of their food without interruption, and to sleep quietly at night. Not so with the physician. For him no season is sacred. He is liable to be called at any hour. The Sabbath, a day of rest to others, is to him but too often a day of incessant toil. In seasons of severe sickness, when *the pestilence walketh in darkness and destruction wasteth at noon-day*, he is especially exposed to danger. If others flee, he is expected to re-

main at his post ; and it often happens, that after having been honored as the successful instrument of rescuing multitudes from an untimely grave, he himself falls a victim to the destroyer. So fell Samuel Fuller, the earliest physician in New England ; and so, quite recently in this county, died of ship fever good Dr. Thaxter of Dorchester, and the amiable Wyman of Stoughton.

Brethren, let us cherish the memory of such men. As we drop the tear of sympathy over their graves, we can scarcely fail to grow wiser and better. A thought of their sufferings will lighten our own ; and should any of us perish, as they did, in the conscientious discharge of duty, it may console us in the hour of our departure to reflect that after our decease we shall "*still live*," not only in the grateful recollections, but also in the worthy deeds of some, who, emulating our example, may be led by it to practise the virtues they admire.

The County of Norfolk embraces, within an area of about four hundred miles, one city and twenty-two towns. The number of inhabitants in 1850 was about 79,000, and the density of the population not far from two hundred persons to a square mile. The number of physicians at the same period was about eighty-eight, and of clergymen eight-nine ; so that it may be said, without great inaccuracy, that each religious society or parish has its own physician and minister. It must be confessed that in almost every community a few individuals may be found who seem indisposed to regard the pious instructions of the one, and quite incapable of estimating the value of the services of the other. One would think that these modern pseudo-reformers imagine themselves to have received a commission to upturn the foundations of society. With such, change in whatever direction is progress. They have more faith in fiction than in fact. Old doctrines they discard because they are old, and new dogmas they receive because they are new ; the greater the apparent absurdity of these dogmas, in their view, the more profound their real truth. Nevertheless, as these persons have "method in their madness," they should be allowed the largest liberty consistent with public safety, and are rather to be won than driven to the adoption of wiser and more consistent opinions.

In the early history of the country, the professions of divinity and medicine were frequently found in the hands of the same incumbent. The ministers of that period "practised" as well as preached. Indeed, in all nations in their forming state the two professions have been identical, until, in consequence of the increase of duties demanded, and the necessity of more time and a more careful training required for

their successful performance, they are disjoined. The union of the medical and priestly offices was established among the ancient Israelites as early as the time of Moses. Perhaps the origin of this union may be thus explained. Disease is an abnormal condition, and in early times was deemed a supernatural infliction on account of moral delinquency on the part of the suffering individual or others. Hence the question of the disciples to the Saviour—"Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Sometimes, indeed, disease was a punishment; as in the case of Miriam, who for her rebellion against Moses was smitten with leprosy; and of Gehazi, who for his covetousness and falsehood went out from the presence of Elisha "a leper as white as snow." It is not surprising that in a rude age a general principle should have been assumed from a few isolated facts, and so the opinion become common that all diseases are to be considered in the light of a penal infliction. Under such an impression, it was natural that the sick man should apply for relief to his religious teacher; his first step being to propitiate the Deity. In the case of leprosy, Moses directed the subject to apply to the priest for the examination and cure of his disease; and on his recovery to make a votive offering at the Temple. Isaiah officiated for Hezekiah both as prophet and physician; not only predicting his recovery, but prescribing the remedies in the use of which it was to be effected. The Jewish Temple became at length the great hospital of the nation, as well as the central point of its religious rites and worship.

In Egypt, also, and in Greece, the custom seems to have been early established of collecting and posting up in temples and other public places an account of medicines used and other appliances made, by which marvellous cures had been effected. In the progress of civilization and with an increase of light, this chaotic mass of materials began to assume form and shape. Medical science was the result. The works of Hippocrates embody not only his individual experience, but also the wisdom of preceding ages; and the famous oath which he was accustomed to administer to all his pupils before they were permitted to assume the responsible duties of their calling, contains a code of medical ethics unsurpassed even in modern times, as a guide to the profession in their intercourse with each other and the community.—[See Note A.]

Some of the popular medical theories and remedies of ancient times were no doubt sufficiently ludicrous; but it admits of a question whether the most visionary of them may not find a parallel even in our own boasted age of scientific progress.

One of the remarkable remedies of ancient times, the virtues of which

seem to have been overlooked by the moderns, was the amethyst worn as a charm. With respect to this precious stone (and precious remedy, too, if it really possessed half the virtues ascribed to it), it takes its name* from the virtue thereof. For "being laid to the umbilicus, it first draws the vapor of the wine to itself, then dispelling the same, and so preserving him that weareth it from drunkenness. Wherefore, this pearl is a great conservative of temperance."†

The nearest approach in modern times to the discovery of a real "amethyst," or cure for drunkenness, which has come to my knowledge, was announced in a recent communication to the Boston Natural History Society, as reported in the "Evening Traveller." It appears that a certain physician, resident in Florida, has ascertained by personal experiment, that after having "intoxicated himself considerably with brandy," he can by swallowing a pill containing a small quantity of the poison of the rattlesnake, completely neutralize the intoxication; that on increasing the quantity of brandy until the intoxication becomes "pretty deep," he can, by taking three of the poison pills, not only remove the intoxication, but so reduce the pulse and depress the system that it becomes necessary, from danger of collapse, to resort quickly to powerful stimulants. In other words, three of the pills produce in this doctor's case a state of sobriety actually alarming. In confirmation of this statement, a case was related at the same scientific meeting, of a man in Athens, Ga., who, while lying under a fence in a very intoxicated state, was bitten by a very large and active snake, yet no harm followed to the man, whatever may have happened to the serpent.

We have all heard of the notice in former days, "drunk for a penny, dead drunk for two pence, and clean straw for nothing." Who knows that in the march of modern improvement we may not live to see appended to the bills of fare in some of our fashionable saloons and hotels, in addition to the variety of liquors recommended—"Amethyst pills, a sure preventive of intoxication, will be furnished gratis at the close of the entertainment, to any gentleman who may unfortunately have occasion to use them."—[See Note B.]

The early history of medicine in Massachusetts is involved in great obscurity. The names of but few practitioners, during the first century after its settlement, have come down to us, and of these few we know but little. The title of "doctor" was not often applied in the most ancient records; and indeed at that early period but few well-educated men devoted themselves exclusively to the cure of the sick.

* *Alpha* privative, and *methuo* to be drunken.

† Ancient Commentary on the Revelation, printed in 1642.

In presenting such facts as I have been able to collect, it will be convenient to adopt a geographical arrangement of towns, which nearly coincides with the order of their settlement, rather than an alphabetical one. Omitting, for the present, Cohasset, which is more naturally associated with Plymouth County than with Norfolk, Weymouth on the eastern border of the County first claims our attention.

WEYMOUTH.

Weymouth was the second settlement of white men in New England. Weston's colony, which commenced operations there in 1622, was broken up the following year. The people, in consequence of their excessive improvidence, "fell into great extremity," and before their dispersion were dependent on Plymouth, not only for medical advice, but for sustenance also. During the next twenty years, up to the close of the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Newman, who in 1644, with many of his people, removed to Rehoboth, I have been unable to find the name of any resident physician in the settlement. In that year Rev. Thomas Thacher was inducted into the ministry at Weymouth, where for twenty years he continued, executing the double office of physician and pastor. He previously resided several years in the family and under the tuition of Rev. Charles Chauncey, at Scituate, where he acquired a high reputation as a classical scholar, and also as a proficient in theology and medicine: unlike certain medico-theologians of the present day, who certainly have not succeeded in obtaining the reputation of *very* profound attainments either in theology or medicine. After the death of his wife, he resigned his pastorate and removed to Boston, where for several years he preached occasionally, but was chiefly occupied in the discharge of his medical duties. To him, it has been said, belongs the honor of having been the author of the first medical tract ever published in Massachusetts, entitled—"A Brief Guide to the Common People in the Smallpox and Measles"; first published in Boston in 1677, and a second edition in 1702. In 1669 he was installed as the first pastor of the Old South Church in Boston. He did not wholly relinquish his medical pursuits, however; for Cotton Mather informs us, that having preached for his father, he visited a sick person after going out of the assembly, whereby he got some harm, which turned into a fever, of which he died October 15, 1678, aged 58.

The next physician in Weymouth, of whom any tradition remains, was Dr. Beal. He is said to have resided in the North Parish, near to Hingham line. Dr. Richards informs me that he sustained a good reputation as a citizen and physician.

Dr. Nathaniel White, a native of Weymouth, was born in 1690, and died in 1758. He first settled in the North Parish, but afterwards removed to the south part of the town. He was much employed in public business, and his name often appears on the town records. He acquired and sustained a great reputation for skill, and for many years enjoyed a widely-extended practice in Weymouth and the vicinity.

Dr. Benjamin Richards, born in 1714, settled in North Weymouth, and had a good reputation and business until his death, which occurred in 1755, at the age of 41.

Hon. Cotton Tufts, the immediate successor of the last two named physicians, was born at Medford in 1731; graduated at Harvard College in 1749; studied medicine with his brother, Dr. Simon Tufts, who in Medford succeeded to his father's name, reputation and business. Dr. Tufts was esteemed as a well-educated and judicious physician. In early and middle life, he had an extended medical practice. He was one of the original members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and from 1787 to 1793 its President. He was much in public life; a finished and well-bred gentleman of the old school, courteous, dignified, never assuming to himself titles or place which did not belong to him, nor shrinking from the performance of any duty to which he was properly called. He possessed a remarkable symmetry of character, which commanded universal respect. Towards the close of life his time was so much engrossed with public trusts, that he was not much occupied in general practice. As long as he was able to go out, however, his counsel was much sought in difficult cases. He was very kind to young men just commencing professional life, as I can testify from personal knowledge, and ever ready, when requested, to open to them the stores of his ample experience.

Dr. James Torrey settled in South Weymouth in 1783, and was the only physician there for more than thirty years. He was a native of Connecticut, and practised medicine there and in Nantucket a few years before his residence in Weymouth. He had a fair reputation and business for that day. Having been a seventh son, it is said that in early life he sometimes so far yielded to the whim of the times as to apply his gift in the cure of scrofula; and when accompanied with the use of the famous Harlaem oil, or "*Medicamentum gratia probatum*," it was probably not less successful than the "touch" of his royal competitors. However that may have been, in subsequent years he wholly discontinued the practice, and left behind him that good name which is "better than precious ointment." He died December 16, 1817, aged 64.

Dr. James Lovell, who died in 1820 at the age of 52, was in early life engaged in medical practice in North Weymouth, where he was

much esteemed. Soon after 1800 he entirely relinquished medical pursuits.

Dr. Noah Fifield was born at East Kingston, N. H., July 22, 1783. He studied medicine under the direction of Dr. William Sanborn, of Falmouth, Me., and Dr. Nathan McKinstry, of Newbury, Vt.; attended medical lectures at Cambridge in 1804, and settled as a physician in Weymouth in January, 1806, where he still resides, at the age of 70, in the enjoyment of a competence acquired by unremitting industry and devotion to the interests of his employers.

Dr. George Fordyce Fifield, a promising young physician, son of the preceding, a graduate of Harvard College in 1841, after having studied his profession commenced business with his father, but died in 1846, of lumbar abscess, having lived long enough to give promise of extensive usefulness had his life been continued.

In South Weymouth, Dr. Appleton Howe, the respected Vice President of this Society, established himself soon after the death of Dr. Torrey, in 1817, where he continues to reside, with a widely-extended and increasing reputation. Whatever, therefore, may have been the character of the medical faculty in Weymouth in ancient times, the present generation has been well served. Other physicians, besides those mentioned, have been residents there, but so recently or for so limited a period that it does not seem necessary to allude to them by name in this sketch.

BRAINTREE originally included within its limits the present towns of Quincy, Braintree and Randolph. It was settled as early as 1624 or 1625, but not incorporated until 1640. Before that period it had been an appendage of Boston; and for many years afterwards the inhabitants, having been too few to sustain a physician of their own, appear to have been dependent on Boston and the neighboring towns of Roxbury and Dorchester for medical advice in important cases.

QUINCY.

Dr. John Wilson, son of Dr. Edmund Wilson of London, and grandson of Rev. John Wilson, first pastor of the First Church in Boston, appears to have been the earliest resident physician in old "Brantry," now Quincy. His domicile was on lands granted by the Town of Boston to their first minister. He was well educated, but not, as some suppose, the graduate at Harvard in 1705. He probably received his medical education in London. He seems to have sustained an excellent reputation, both as a citizen and a physician. In his time "fever and ague" was a very pre-

valent disease in his vicinity ; and there is a tradition that he was accustomed to remark, that the period would arrive when that disease would disappear from this section of the country, and other diseases take its place. Although the precise date of his death has not been ascertained, it probably occurred early in the autumn of 1727, as administration was granted on his estate on the 16th of October of that year.

Dr. Edward Stedman succeeded Dr. Wilson. He married a daughter of Major Lemuel Vassal.

Leonard Hoar, M.D., who graduated at Harvard College in 1650, it is said, practised medicine here until his accession to the presidency of the College in 1672. He died at Quincy, Nov. 28, 1675, aged 48.

Dr. Henry Turner, who was educated as an apothecary in London, settled in Quincy as early as 1775. He was never extensively engaged in medical practice. He died January 21, 1773, at the age of 84.

Dr. Henry Turner, Jun., son of the preceding, was a regularly-educated physician, but died before his father. His widow Abigail, after his decease, married Samuel Bass, in 1757, and they were the parents of the late Capt. Josiah Bass.

Dr. Elisha Savil (Harvard College, 1743) was a reputable physician, and from an examination of his ledger, loaned to me by one of his descendants, I find that he had an extended business from 1750 to 1768, not only in Quincy, but also in Milton and in the middle and south precincts of old Braintree. He died at the early age of 44, April 30, 1768, of lung fever, made fatal by exposure in visiting a patient after the accession of the disease.

Dr. Ebenezer Crosby, a native of Quincy, who graduated at Harvard College in 1777, it is said practised medicine for a short period in the place of his nativity. Of this there may be some doubt. Dr. Thacher (*Medical Biography*, i., 57), says that he completed his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania ; that he was at an early period of the Revolutionary war appointed surgeon to General Washington's guard, and was received into his military family, in which he continued until near the close of the war. He afterwards settled in New York, where he acquired a reputable practice and was much esteemed. In 1785, he was elected a Professor in Columbia College, which appointment he retained until his death, July 16, 1788.

Dr. Thomas Phipps was a native of Brighton. He graduated at Harvard College in 1757 ; went to Quincy in 1768, immediately after the death of Dr. Savil, and for many years enjoyed a lucrative and extended business. He was esteemed as a worthy man and good physician. Towards the close of his life, which terminated November, 4, 1817, at

the age of 80, he became entirely deaf, which materially impaired his usefulness.

Dr. Ebenezer Brackett, son of Mr. James Brackett, was born at Quincy, in 1773. He graduated at Dartmouth College in 1791; studied medicine, and commenced business with fair prospects of success, but fell a victim to pulmonary disease in 1794.

Dr. Thomas Phipps, Jun., studied medicine with his father, and was for a time associated with him in business. He was held in high repute by his patients. His death occurred August 30, 1832. On that day he left his house apparently in his usual, although not confirmed, health. He had proceeded but a few rods, when he fell and instantly expired, at the age of 46.

Dr. Benjamin Vinton, born October 14, 1774; graduated at Harvard College in 1796, and settled in Quincy in 1801, having previously officiated for a time as surgeon's mate in a vessel of war. He had a good reputation as a physician, and as such acquired a fair share of business. In 1813 he fell a victim to a disease of the urinary organs, probably Bright's disease, leaving a widow, who still survives, and three daughters, all of whom have since died of consumption.

Dr. Ebenezer Woodward (Dartmouth 1817; M.D. Harvard 1823) settled in Quincy immediately after receiving his medical degree, and from that period to the present has rarely been absent from his circle of business.

BRAINTREE.

The present town of Braintree was originally the middle precinct of the old town of the same name. Although incorporated in 1707, it had no resident physician until 1779.

Dr. Daniel Fogg, a native of New Hampshire, and a medical pupil of Dr. Thomas Kittredge of Andover, in that year took up his residence in Braintree. He was a worthy man and a good physician. Having been reserved in his manners, and for many years exceedingly deaf, his business was very much confined to the vicinity in which he lived. He died suddenly, in 1830, of disease of the heart, while walking in his garden, aged 71.

Dr. Ebenezer Thayer, a native of Braintree, settled at the Iron-works near Weymouth in 1800, but within five years died of fever, at the age of 30.

Dr. Joseph Bossuet resided for a time in the same neighborhood. He was a French physician, well educated, and had for a time resided in the West Indies. He had a good reputation as a surgeon. His lack of self-control prevented him from acquiring in this country an extended

business. He performed in Braintree one operation, which gave him some notoriety, having removed from the urinary bladder a calculus of considerable size, and with it the remains of an extra-uterine fœtus. The patient recovered and survived many years, and before her death presented the carefully-preserved bones and other remains to Dr. H. I. Bowditch, of Boston, and through him to the Boston Society for Medical Improvement.

Dr. Jonathan Wild is a native of Braintree; graduated at Harvard College in 1804; was a medical pupil of Dr. Ebenezer Alden, of Randolph, and resided there a few years after the death of his instructor. In 1813, however, he returned to his native town, and has been the principal physician there for the last thirty years.

RANDOLPH.

Dr. Moses Baker, a friend and probably fellow pupil of Dr. Benjamin Church, of Boston, settled in the "New South Precinct of Braintree," now Randolph, about the year 1755, and had a good share of business in that and the neighboring parishes until his death, which occurred December 10, 1781.

Dr. Ephraim Wales was the second physician in Randolph. He graduated at Harvard College in 1768, was a medical pupil of Dr. Amos Putnam of Danvers, and settled in this his native parish as early as 1770. He was well educated, was the instructor of numerous pupils, and had a large circle of practice. His youngest son, bearing the same name, after his father's death, which occurred April 7, 1805, at the age of 59, pursued his profession, and is still a resident on the site of the old family mansion.

Dr. Ebenezer Alden, a descendant of the Pilgrim John Alden who came to Plymouth in the May Flower in 1620, was a native of Stafford, Ct., where he was born July 4, 1755. Having completed his medical education in his native State, he was invited to settle in Randolph on the death of Dr. Baker; and from 1781 to the time of his own death, which occurred October 16, 1806, he sustained there and in the neighboring towns an unblemished reputation, and received his full share of medical patronage. His pastor, Rev. Jonathan Strong, in a tribute to his memory after his decease, thus speaks of him.—"The duties of his profession he discharged with reputation to himself, and with great usefulness to his employers. His circle of business, although small at first, gradually increased until it became very extensive. As a physician he was remarkably attentive, prudent, and successful. During the latter part of his life, his advice was sought and much respected by his breth-

ren of the faculty in his vicinity. No physician in this part of the country possessed the love and confidence of his patients to a higher degree. This was evident from the universal sorrow occasioned among them by his death."

Dr. Jonathan Wales, a medical pupil of Drs. E. Wales and N. Miller, was a native of Randolph, and a physician there for forty years preceding his death, which occurred in 1843, at the age of 65. He was ardently devoted to his profession, and actively engaged in its duties; was much employed in town affairs and in the concerns of the religious society of which he was a member. He obtained the confidence of his patients in an eminent degree, and was often called on in surgical as well as in medical cases. In 1824 he received the degree of A.M. at Middlebury College, and that of M.D. at Waterville in 1832. His son, Dr. B. L. Wales, who graduated at Middlebury College in 1824, and M.D. at Harvard in 1828, was afterwards associated in business with his father while he lived, but since his death has relinquished medical pursuits for more congenial and lucrative employments.

Dr. Ebenezer Alden, son of the former physician in this town of the same name, graduated at Harvard College in 1808; was a medical pupil of Dr. Nathan Smith, at Hanover, N. H., where he received the degree of M.B. in 1811. He was afterwards for some months a resident in Philadelphia, in attendance upon medical lectures and practice in that city, where he received, in 1812, the degree of M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania; since which period he has resided at Randolph.

Other physicians, who have commenced business there more recently, are now resident in that town, enjoying a well-earned patronage.

DORCHESTER.

Dorchester, which was settled in 1631, originally embraced within its limits not only the present town of that name, but also Milton, Canton, Stoughton, Sharon and Foxborough. Johnson, in his "Wonder-working Providence," thus quaintly describes it. "The forme of this Towne is almost like a serpent, turning her head to the northward over against Tompson's Island and the Castle; her body and wings being chiefly built on are filled somewhat thick of houses, only that one of her wings is clipt; her tayle being of such large extent that she can hardly draw it after her."—*Wonder-working Providence*, 1st Ed., 4to, p. 41.

I find no account of any resident physician in Dorchester at a very early period. Much sickness prevailed there, as well as at Salem and Charlestown, in 1630 and the two following years. Dr. Samuel Fuller of Plymouth, writing to Gov. Bradford, June 28, 1630, says—"I have been

to Mattapan at the request of Mr. Warham, and let some twenty of these people blood.”—(*History of Dorchester*, p. 22.) This sickness was probably similar to that which prevailed in Plymouth, of which Morton says—“it was a kind of pestilential fever,” of which upwards of twenty persons died in Plymouth; and that it was also very fatal to the Indians in the vicinity. At the same time the Indians near Charlestown were severely afflicted with smallpox, Mr. Maverick having buried above thirty of them at Winnesimmet in one day, as Winthrop assures us.

Dr. Elijah Danforth was one of the earliest physicians in Dorchester, and had his residence near the old burying ground. Dr. Harris supposes that he resided for a time at Castle Island. It is probable that at one period he was at Roxbury also; for Dr. Boylston, in his “Account of the Smallpox inoculated in New England” (p. 31), says that on the 8th of December, 1721, he inoculated at Roxbury among others Dr. Elijah Danforth, aged 35; and that the doctor, in consequence of the cold weather, had a tumor in the axilla which came to suppuration. He graduated at Harvard College in 1703, and died in Dorchester in 1736, at the age of 50, leaving a real estate of the value of £2000, besides a handsome personal estate.

Dr. William Holden commenced business in Dorchester soon after the death of Dr. Danforth. There is reason to suppose that he was previously at Bridgewater; a Dr. William Holden having buried a daughter Hannah there in 1738, and removed soon after. He was a native of Cambridge, born 4th March, 1713, and died March 30, 1776, aged 63.

Dr. Phinehas Holden, son of Dr. William, was born January 31, 1744. He studied medicine with his father, and continued in the practice of it at Dorchester until his death in 1819.

Dr. James Baker, who was born Sept 5, 1739, and graduated at Harvard College in 1760, studied divinity and was for some time a preacher. He then studied medicine, and practised a few years until about 1780, when he relinquished the profession for other pursuits.

Dr. Joseph Gardner died in Dorchester in 1809, aged 28.

Eleazer Clapp, M.D., who graduated at Harvard College in 1807, was a pupil of Dr. J. Warren. He opened an office in Boston, and commenced the duties of his profession with fair prospects of success. But he soon became melancholy, and having a predisposition to insanity, returned to his native town, where in a fit of mental depression he committed suicide, Aug. 27, 1817, at the age of 31. His mother, filled with grief at the occurrence, followed him five days afterwards by the same means.

Dr. Thomas Danforth, son of the celebrated Dr. Samuel Danforth of

Boston, received a good education, but having wealthy relatives was not specially devoted to the interests of his profession. For about two years he had his residence in Dorchester ; not with a view of engaging in medical pursuits, however, although he was sometimes requested to prescribe for his neighbors. " Having taken a sudden cold, which produced excitement of the brain," he rose from his bed on the night of July 13, 1817, procured a light, and, placing himself before a looking-glass, deliberately opened the carotid artery ; when he threw himself again upon the bed, and soon expired. His death may have been the exciting cause of that of Dr. Clapp, which occurred the following month.

Dr. Samuel Mulliken was a native of Lexington. He graduated at Harvard College in 1819, and settled as a physician in Dorchester. For some time his circle of practice was quite limited. But at length, removing to the south part of the town, he acquired business and a good reputation, which he retained until his death, which occurred Feb. 20, 1843, at the age of 52. The immediate occasion of his death was the introduction of virus into his system through a slight wound received in dissecting a gangrenous subject.

Dr. Robert Thaxter was a native of Hingham, where he was born October 21, 1776. He graduated at Harvard College in 1798. Having studied medicine with his father, Dr. Thomas Thaxter, he was for a time associated with him in business at Hingham. In 1809 he settled at Dorchester, and from that period until his death, which occurred from " ship fever " Feb. 9, 1852, he enjoyed a wide circle of medical and surgical practice, and an enviable reputation as a physician and citizen. For more than thirty years he was not detained from his business a single day by sickness, nor did he spend a night out of town during the same period, except on professional duty. He was a man of noble, self-sacrificing spirit. It was only necessary for him to know that his services were needed. He inquired not whether the sufferer was a native citizen or a foreigner ; whether he had ability to make any pecuniary compensation, or otherwise ; whether his malady was mild or malignant. At the first summons, by night or by day, he hastened to his relief. Although his own life might be the forfeit, he deserted not his post in the hour of danger. " His profession *was his life*," says his pastor, Rev. Dr. Hall, in a highly appropriate tribute to his memory, on the Sabbath succeeding his death. He adds, " May it not have been kindly ordered—kindly for him—that the mortal arrow by which he fell should have been received in the conscientious discharge of its functions." " His last sickness was contracted by faithful attendance on the family of a poor migrant."

MILTON.

Milton was incorporated in 1662. Rev. Peter Thacher, its first minister and physician, was born in 1651, graduated at Harvard College in 1671, and died Dec. 17, 1727, aged 77. He was the son of Rev. Thomas Thacher of Weymouth and Boston. Soon after his graduation he went to England, where he remained several years. Like his father, he was well skilled in medicine as well as in theology; and he expended no inconsiderable portion of his annual salary in providing medicines for the indigent and sick. He acquired such a knowledge of the Indian language, as enabled him, in their own tongue, to preach to the natives, who were numerous in his vicinity; and at the same time he was accustomed to prescribe for their physical maladies. Cotton Mather (*Mag. i.*, 428, 2d ed.) says—"It is well known that, until two hundred years ago, physic in England was no profession distinct from divinity"; and elsewhere he adds—"Ever since the days of Luke the Evangelist, skill in physic has been frequently professed and practised by persons whose most declared business was the study of divinity. But I suppose that the greatest frequency of this angelical conjunction has been seen in these parts of America, where they are mostly the poor to whom the gospel is preached by pastors whose compassion to them in their poverty invites them to supply the want of abler physicians." "Such a universally serviceable pastor was our Thacher." This was indeed a tribute of the learned author to the father, but equally applicable to the son and to many other worthy pioneer ministers of New England. It was neither want of success in their appropriate calling; nor a desire for the emoluments of a double office; nor an overweening self-esteem; nor any other unworthy motive, which led these early ministers to add to their theological stores some knowledge of medicine. It was rather a desire to administer to the necessities and alleviate the pains of those who from poverty and distance were unable to avail themselves of more efficient aid. The professions of theology and medicine are natural allies. Those who practise them can and should be mutual helpers; and when ministers so forget the dignity of their calling as to be carried away by the newest and most popular medical delusion, to the neglect of the well-informed and regularly-educated physicians of their own parishes, they act as unwisely as the physician who adopts the vagaries of the wildest theological fanatic, as a substitute for the teachings of the sober and well-instructed ministers of religion.

After the death of Rev. Mr. Thacher, the medical business of the town was divided for nearly half a century among physicians in the vicinity.

Dr. Samuel Gardner, son of Rev. John Gardner of Stow, graduated at Harvard College in 1746, and settled on Milton Hill as early as 1753. On the 22d May, 1766, he married Mary, daughter of Rev. Dr. William Cooper, and grand-daughter of William Foye, a gentleman of standing and fortune in Milton. He was considered a respectable physician, and, it is supposed, died in 1777.

Dr. Enos Sumner was born in 1746, and was in business as a physician in the central part of Milton, from about 1768 to nearly the close of his life, which terminated June 8, 1796.

Dr. Benjamin Turner, a native of Randolph, graduated at Harvard College in 1791, and after having completed his medical education had his residence in the south part of Milton, and was for some years engaged in medical practice. He then removed to Framingham, and from that time until his death, which occurred in 1831, he was devoted to agricultural pursuits.

Dr. Amos Holbrook was a native of Bellingham, had his residence in Milton, at first in the village, afterwards upon Milton Hill, and was one of the most eminent medical men in the County during the whole period in which he lived. He had not the advantage of a collegiate education; but this infelicity was more than compensated by the experience he acquired in the service of his country, as an army surgeon, and by his subsequent residence for several months in France, where his time was profitably occupied "in witnessing the practice of the hospitals, and thus adding to his stores of practical knowledge." Endowed by nature with an elegant person, he added to it a courteousness of address and suavity of manners which won him favor in whatever circle he moved. He was beloved as a physician and citizen, and sustained his popularity undiminished to the close of a long life. For many years he engrossed the principal medical business of Dorchester as well as Milton. He died June 17, 1842, at the advanced age of 88.

A very just sketch of his character, by his friend and pupil Dr. Thaddeus W. Harris, was published in the Boston Courier soon after his death, and thence copied into the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of July 13, 1842, and subsequently by Dr. Williams into his Medical Biography.

Dr. Samuel Kinsley Glover, a native of Milton, was born in 1753. He entered Harvard College, but before the time of his graduation arrived, the Revolution having broken out, instruction in the College was suspended; his classical studies were relinquished, and he soon joined the army as surgeon's mate. In that capacity and as surgeon of several armed vessels, he continued until 1778. In that year, among other duties he had charge of a smallpox hospital on Prospect Hill, where Burgoyne's

troops were stationed as prisoners of war. In 1780 he relinquished military life, and settled in Milton. From that time also he discontinued the practice of medicine and surgery, except that for a time he devoted some attention to a private smallpox hospital. He received a pension from government, was called to fill several stations in public life, and died July 1, 1839, aged 86.

Dr. Thaddeus William Harris, son of the Rev. T. M. Harris, D.D., of Dorchester, graduated at Harvard College in 1815, and settled at Milton in 1820; where, and in his native town of Dorchester, he acquired the reputation of an excellent physician, as well as a distinguished naturalist. After about ten years it became necessary for him to relinquish the active duties of his profession, as too laborious for his constitution, and he was elected to, and accepted the office of Librarian to the University, a post which he has since continued to occupy, to the entire satisfaction of its guardians and the public.

Dr. Thomas Kittredge was for a few years in Milton, where he died July 27, 1845, aged 33.

Dr. Charles R. Kennedy, a native of Milton, and graduate of Harvard College in 1826, studied medicine at Randolph, and settled in his native town; but not finding the practice of his profession congenial either to his feelings or his health, he relinquished it for other pursuits. He became consumptive, and died at St. Augustine in 1836. He was an excellent citizen and much respected.

CANTON.

Canton, formerly known as Dorchester village, was settled, and a church organized in it, as early as 1717.

Dr. Belcher was the earliest resident physician; and tradition has made us better acquainted with his skill in athletic exercises than in professional pursuits. His minister, Rev. Samuel Dunbar, had in his day a great reputation as a mighty wrestler, as well as divine. It is said that although neither the clergyman nor physician was disposed to compromise the dignity of his calling by a public trial of skill, they sometimes retired to a lone spot in the forest, and there, far removed from the public gaze, renewed the sports of their youth.

Dr. George Crossman was the successor of Dr. Belcher. He was many years Town Clerk of Stoughton, before its separation from Canton. He had a good reputation as a physician, and died Sept. 25, 1805, aged 68.

Dr. Samuel Searle, a pupil of Dr. Moses Baker of Randolph, settled as a physician in Canton about the year 1780. After a few years he removed, first to Royalston, then to Canada, where he died.

Dr. Jonathan Stoné, a native of Framingham, settled as a physician in Canton about the year 1812; and continued to reside there in full practice, and much respected, for more than thirty years. He was a worthy Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society. In 1842 he removed to Belleville, Ill., where he is supposed to be still living.

Dr. Moses Baker, a native of Randolph, and son of the physician there of the same name, was in Canton several years, but removed, and finally went to Monmouth, Me., where, it is understood, he died about twenty years ago.

Dr. Phineas M. Crane, son of Gen. Elijah Crane, after having completed his medical studies, in 1828 settled in his native town, but soon removed to East Boston, his present residence.

STOUGHTON.

The present town of Stoughton was incorporated as a parish in 1744.

Dr. Nathan Bucknam was the first physician. He was probably a son of Rev. Nathan Bucknam, Harvard College 1721. He married a Holmes; died young, and but little is known respecting him.

It is said that a Dr. Pope formerly resided in Stoughton, near to Easton—respecting whom, the only remaining tradition is that he refused medical fees for services rendered on the Sabbath.

Dr. Peter Adams, a native of Stoughton, was son of Rev. Jedediah Adams, Harvard College 1733. He graduated at Harvard College in 1773; was a medical pupil of Dr. Crossman and Dr. E. Wales; and from about 1780 to the time of his death in 1832, was the principal physician of the town. He died at the age of 76, universally respected.

Dr. Simeon Tucker, a native of Canton, and for a short time a practitioner there, who graduated at Brown University in 1821, and at Harvard College M.D. in 1824, succeeded Dr. Adams, and is still a resident in Stoughton in successful practice.

Dr. Charles F. Wyman, a very promising young physician, became associated in business with Dr. Tucker, but having unfortunately contracted "ship fever" in the discharge of professional duty, died of the disease April 30, 1851, at the early age of 27 years. He was universally respected, and his untimely death greatly lamented.

SHARON.

Sharon was incorporated as a town in 1765.

Dr. Lemuel Hewins, a pupil of Dr. Nathaniel White, of Weymouth, whose daughter he married, was probably the first physician there. In early life he had some business, which soon declined, his personal habits being unfavorable to success.

Dr. Elijah Hewins was a pupil of Dr. Young, of Boston, and a surgeon in the Revolutionary army, attached to Col. Jacob Gill's regiment. He had in Sharon, Foxborough, and Walpole an extensive practice for twenty years after the close of the war. He sustained the reputation of an upright man and good physician. His death occurred in 1827, at the age of 80; but some years previously, in consequence of a shock of palsy, he had wholly retired from practice.

Dr. Daniel Stone, who graduated at Harvard College in 1797, and was a medical pupil of Dr. Willard, of Uxbridge, was the next physician. He commenced business in Sharon, in 1800, and continued there in successful practice for more than forty years, enjoying a well-earned reputation as a physician and citizen. From the commencement of his medical life he was on principle a total abstinent from the use of all intoxicating liquors. He was social in his habits, hospitable, a pleasant companion and a fast friend. He was thrice married, and left a widow with several children to mourn his loss. His death occurred very suddenly, August 27th, 1842, in consequence of the ulceration and rupture of a hernial appendix to the ileum, somewhat resembling the appendix vermiformis.

FOXBOROUGH.

Foxborough constituted originally the caudal extremity of that "serpent that turned her head northward over against Tompson's Island and the Castle." It was incorporated in 1778.

Dr. Joshua Wood appears to have been the earliest resident physician. He was a native of Sharon, a medical pupil of Dr. Elijah Hewins, and had a good reputation as a physician and citizen. He died of pulmonary disease, in 1799, at the age of 47.

Dr. Spencer Pratt, a medical pupil of Dr. Wood, succeeded him, and was for a time successful in acquiring business. He afterwards removed to Franklin, where he died.

Dr. Aaron Everett died in 1807, aged 25.

Dr. William Payson came from Walpole; was a resident in Foxborough; married a daughter of Samuel Warren, Esq., and for several years was the principal physician. He then removed.

Dr. ——— Kingsbury, was a resident here for a short period, but died at an early age.

Dr. ——— Talbot was here for a time, and then removed.

Dr. Gardner M. Peck received the degree of M.D. at Brown University in 1821, settled in Foxborough, and for some years had a wide circle of practice. He then removed to New York, and it is understood relinquished medicine as a profession for more profitable pursuits.

DEDHAM.

Dedham was incorporated in 1636, and originally embraced within its limits the present towns of Dedham, Medfield, Medway, Walpole, Wrentham, Franklin, Bellingham, Needham, Dover, Natick, and a part of Sherborn.

Rev. John Allin, who was settled in 1639, was the first pastor. He had a son Daniel, born in 1656, who graduated at Harvard College in 1675, and was a physician. He was for a time a resident in Boston, and also Librarian to the College, and may have occasionally prescribed for the sick in his native village. He died in 1692.

Dr. William Avery was the earliest educated physician who is known to have taken up his residence in Dedham. He came from England to Boston in 1650; with his wife Mary, and children Mary, William, and Robert. At what period he removed to Dedham, and how long he continued there, is uncertain. In 1680 he had returned to Boston; for in that year he gave £60 to the town of Dedham, describing himself in the deed of gift as of Boston, but sometimes of Dedham. In Judge Samuel Sewall's diary, it is recorded, that he died in Boston, March 18, 1686. His age was 65. A small grave-stone, in the Chapel Burying Ground, marks the place of his interment. He appears to have been well educated; a man of benevolence; and especially a patron of learning. I have found no evidence that he left a will, but it is known that in his life-time he made liberal donations to various public charities, among which was one to the College at Cambridge.

Dr. Jonathan Avery, son of Dr. William, was born in Boston, it is said, in 1651. This may be a mistake. In his will, dated May, 1691, he describes himself as a resident in Dedham; practitioner in physick, aged about 35 years. His inventory is dated the same month. He left a wife Sybil, and three daughters. There is, among his descendants, a tradition that, being a believer in alchemy, he devoted some of his leisure hours to chemical studies; and that near the place of his former residence, heaps of cinders still remain, the product of his labors. It may be so. But to me it appears quite as probable, that the aforesaid cinders were the product of his brother Robert's blacksmith shop.

Dr. Joseph Richards was born in Dedham April 18, 1701; graduated at Harvard College in 1721; studied medicine as a profession, and settled in his native town. He was a military officer, a magistrate, and a man of respectability; but I cannot learn that he was ever extensively engaged in medical pursuits. He died Feb. 25, 1761, aged 60.

Dr. Nathaniel Ames, a native of Bridgewater, and descendant of Wil-

liam Ames, of Braintree, settled as a physician in Dedham in 1732. He was a shrewd, observing man, endowed with talents much beyond mediocrity; a man of strong passions and a determined will. He was much respected; was often employed in public affairs; and was found equal to every trust committed to him.

In early life he devoted much attention to astronomical studies. In 1725 he commenced the publication of an almanac, which was continued annually while he lived. This publication contained upon its cover a picture of the signs of the zodiac, rather conspicuously displayed, and secured for him among the credulous a great reputation as an astrologer as well as physician. If he did not openly profess skill in *judicial astrology*, he was not the man to disclaim the possession of such skill, when it was imputed to him by the superstition of others. On the birth of his second son, the Hon. Fisher Ames, in reply to the inquiries of a good lady as to the future destiny of the child, after a moment of apparently deep thought, he gravely said—"If he lives, that child will be the third ruler in the kingdom." Truant boys stood in great fear of him, having the impression that he could infallibly detect their roguery. On one occasion, his skill in this line was subjected to a severe test, yet without loss to his reputation. A neighboring hen-roost had been frequently robbed, yet the culprit had as often escaped detection. At length an appeal was made to the art of the astrologer. One evening, when the signs in the heavens were favorable, the boys, and among them the suspected urchin, were assembled in a dark room. The great family dinner pot was placed upon a table in its centre. All the boys were required to form a ring and march silently round this pot; and each one, on arriving at a given point, to touch it with his finger; it being understood that "old chanticleer," who was represented to be within, would respond to the touch of the robber by crowing most lustily. On completing the circle, there was no response; yet the shrewd astrologer, calling for a light, discovered that the digital extremities of one boy gave no evidence of contact with the enchanted pot; and he, being forthwith pronounced the culprit, made immediate confession of his guilt, and thus the worthy astrologer's fame was fully sustained.

Dr. Ames possessed a great fund of common sense, as well as quiet humor, and was usually found ready for any emergency. Worthington, in his History of Dedham, relates an anecdote illustrative of these traits in his character. It is substantially as follows:—His first wife dying soon after the birth of her first child, and the child itself shortly after its mother, he claimed, that, as heir of his child, he was entitled to certain lands which had descended to her from the Fisher family. These

lands, on her decease, having descended to her child, the question arose, whether they should ascend to the father, as heir-at-law of his child, contrary to the rule of common law. The Supreme Court, two judges dissenting, decided that they did so ascend. Dr. Ames, although successful in his suit, expressed his dislike at the conduct of the dissenting judges, one of whom was Chief Justice Dudley, "by causing the whole Court to be painted on the large sign-board of his tavern, sitting in great state in their large wigs, each judge being clearly recognized. An open book was before them, underneath which was written, 'Province Laws.' The dissenting judges were represented with their backs turned towards the book. The Court, hearing of the sign, sent the Sheriff to bring it before them." The doctor, fortunately for himself, became apprised of the order just in time to remove the obnoxious sign before the sheriff's arrival.

Dr. Ames was born July 22, 1708, and died July 11, 1764, aged 56.

Dr. Nathaniel Ames, son of the preceding, was born at Dedham in 1740; graduated at Harvard College 1761; and commenced the practice of medicine in his native town as early as 1764 or 1765. He was considered a judicious physician; but owing to certain eccentricities of character, and to his fondness for political strife, he never acquired a large circle of business. He had some reputation as a scholar, and continued the almanac which his father had commenced some little time after his death. He died July 22, 1822, aged 81.

Dr. Seth Ames, brother of Dr. Nathaniel, Jr., was born in 1743; graduated at Harvard College 1764, and was a surgeon in Col. Read's regiment of the Revolutionary army. He was for a time settled in Amherst, N. H., where he was much respected. On the failure of his health he returned to Dedham, and died there January 1, 1778.

Dr. John Sprague was a distinguished physician in Dedham, and long enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice. He was born in 1713; graduated at Harvard College in 1737; was a pupil of the celebrated French physician, Dr. Louis Dal Honde, whose daughter he married. He commenced business in Boston, and there continued to reside until after the death of his first wife. He then married Mrs. Esther Harrison, widow of Charles Harrison, Esq., a lady of fortune, and removed to Dedham, where he continued until his death in 1797, at the age of 84.

Dr. Sprague received a good medical education; was endowed with more than a common share of "natural acumen"; and being a very careful observer of morbid phenomena became eminent among his breth-

ren for his skill in diagnosis.* He possessed the unbounded confidence of his patients. "Unto *him* men gave ear and waited and kept silence at *his* counsel." He was eminently successful in acquiring and retaining business; and, it has been said, not over-scrupulous in exacting a substantial remuneration for his services. He acquired a princely fortune; but it is proper to add, that one of his relatives has assured me, that this wealth was obtained more from the rise of soldiers' claims, which he largely purchased, than from the emoluments of his profession.

Dr. Joseph Sprague, Jr., was son of the preceding. After his graduation in 1772, he studied medicine, partly under the direction of his father, but chiefly in Europe. He resided for a time in Milton, then in Boston, afterwards in Dedham, where he died April 17, 1800, aged 48. His tastes and education were not exactly suited to medical pursuits, and he was never actively engaged in the duties of his profession.

Dr. Jesse Wheaton came from Rhode Island. He was a very worthy man, but received only a limited medical education. In the early part of the present century he had considerable medical business in Dedham, but soon relinquished it for other pursuits. For many years he kept an apothecary's shop in Dedham, and was much respected as a citizen. He died in 1847, aged 84.

Dr. Simeon B. Carpenter, the son of a physician in Rhode Island or the vicinity, graduated at Brown University in 1827, and M.D. at Harvard College in 1830. He settled in Dedham, acquired a good reputation and a fair share of medical business, which he retained until his death in 1843, at the age of 42.

* As an instance of the doctor's tact in this line, the following well-authenticated and amusing anecdote may be mentioned. It seemed that his fame had extended beyond the limits of his County. A good woman in the western part of the State, desired to consult him in behalf of her husband, who had received some injury; and, that there might be no collusion, she determined herself to make the journey and see the doctor in person. Accordingly, having provided herself with a phial of the fluid by which his skill was to be tested, she set off on her errand of mercy. On her arrival at Dedham, she espied a man at work in front of a respectable looking house, and inquired if he could inform her where the famous Dr. Sprague lived; adding, that her husband had fallen down stairs, and that she had come to see if the doctor knew as much as people pretended. It happened that the house was the residence of the veritable doctor himself; and that, unperceived, he had overheard the conversation. After the worthy lady had been permitted to wait awhile, the doctor at length appeared; and waving ceremony, she thus accosted him. "Doctor, I have brought some of my husband's water, and I want you to tell me what is the matter with him; and if you can do that, I shall believe you can cure him." The doctor, after due examination, replied, "Madam, I should think that your husband has received an injury by falling down stairs." "I never!"—exclaimed the woman. "But—doctor—how many flights of stairs?" This question had not been anticipated, and he answered at random, "Two, madam." "Ah, doctor," she said, "it was three—from garret to cellar."—"But, madam," responded the doctor, "did you bring *all* the water?" "I confess I did not." "Then, madam, you have left *one* flight of stairs at home." She was perfectly satisfied, and went away astonished at a manifestation of wisdom quite beyond her power of comprehension.

Jeremy Stimson, our late President, is a native of Hopkinton, and son of a physician of the same name. He graduated at Harvard College in 1804, settled in Dedham in 1807, and soon acquired and for forty-five years has sustained the reputation of a scientific and judicious medical adviser. In him the "*suaviter*" and "*fortiter*" are so happily blended, that his services are as much in requisition as ever; and being in the enjoyment of good health, there is a fair prospect that he may serve his generation for years to come in the line of his favorite pursuits.

Dr. Danforth Phipps Wight was the son of Rev. Ebenezer Wight, formerly pastor of the Hollis-street Church in Boston. He was born at Dedham, February 8, 1792; graduated at Harvard College in 1815, and M.D. in 1819. He commenced business at Sandwich, but has for some years resided in his native town, where he is universally respected.

In South Dedham Dr. Philip Draper, Harvard College 1780, is supposed to have been the earliest resident physician. His time was not exclusively devoted to medical pursuits. At one period he was engaged in teaching; and for a time resided in Dorchester. He died in 1817, aged 60.

Dr. Ephraim French, a native of Randolph, went to South Dedham in 1814, but died the same year of a pulmonary complaint.

Dr. Elisha Thayer, author of Thayer's Memorial, succeeded him, and remained a few years. He then removed to Dedham Centre, where for many years his time has been chiefly occupied with his duties as Postmaster.

Dr. John Kingsbury Briggs was the son of Rev. Ephraim Briggs, of Halifax. He studied medicine under the direction of Dr. Arad Thompson of Middleborough, and Dr. William Ingalls of Boston. In 1820, he received the degree of M.D. at Brown University. He settled in South Dedham soon after his graduation, and there for more than twenty years had the reputation of a worthy and successful physician. He was, for a considerable period, the subject of occasional pulmonary hemorrhage, which finally resulted in fatal disease, terminating his life December 26, 1843, at the age of 49.

In West Dedham, with the exception of Dr. Francis Howe, the present incumbent, it is believed that no physician has ever taken up a permanent residence. He is a native of Framingham, born in 1787, studied medicine with Dr. John B. Kittredge, with whom he was for a time associated. In 1814 he took up his residence in West Dedham, and has continued there to the present time.

DOVER.

Dover, originally a part of Dedham, was incorporated in 1784. The only physician who has resided in Dover for any length of time, so far as I have been informed, was Dr. George Caryl.

Dr. C. was a native of Dover. His father was Rev. Benjamin Caryl, and his mother Sarah Kollock, widow of Dr. Cornelius Kollock formerly of Wrentham. He was born in 1767; graduated at Harvard College in 1788; studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Willard, of Uxbridge; settled as a physician in Dover in 1791 or 1792, where he died August 9, 1829, aged 62.

MEDFIELD.

Medfield was incorporated January 1, 1650.

Rev. John Wilson, who graduated in 1642, in the first class in Harvard College, was installed pastor in Medfield in 1651, and united in himself the triple office of school-master, preacher, and physician. He died August 23, 1691, aged 70, having preached all day on the Sabbath preceding his death.

Dr. Joseph Baxter, son of Rev. Joseph Baxter the second minister of Medfield, graduated at Harvard College in 1724. He studied medicine, and died of smallpox, but the time and place of his death I have not ascertained.

Dr. James Jerauld came from France. He settled in the easterly part of Medfield, before 1733, and had a large landed estate there, which he cultivated with slave labor. He was for many years extensively and successfully engaged in the practice of medicine, and died October 25, 1760.

Dr. James Jerauld, 2d, was nephew of the preceding; was adopted as a son and educated by him, and settled in the same place. He became eminent in his profession. He was some time in public life, having been elected a delegate to the Massachusetts Convention for forming a constitution in 1779. He married an Arnold, from Providence, R. I., and left six children. He died March 28, 1802, aged nearly 80.

Dr. Elias Mann was the son of Sabin Mann, Esq. He graduated at Harvard College in 1800, M.B. 1805, and after a short but brilliant career, died March 9, 1807, aged 29.

Dr. Lothario Danielson was a native of Brimfield, studied medicine with Dr. Ebenezer Phillips, of Charlton, and settled in Medfield before 1800. In 1826 he removed to Rochester, N. Y., thence to Michigan, where he died June 21, 1844, aged 79.

Drs. Danielson and Mann, in 1806, attended several cases of "spot-

ted fever” ; a disease which in that year commenced its ravages in Medfield, and afterwards became epidemic and spread throughout New England. Their account of the disease and of its treatment was first published in the Medical and Agricultural Register, and afterwards copied into the Communications of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Vol. II., page 36.

Dr. James Hewins graduated at Harvard College in 1804, and settled in Medfield soon after the death of Dr. Mann. He was a medical pupil of Dr. Abijah Richardson, had a large circle of practice, and was much esteemed, both as a physician and citizen. He died in August, 1846, at the age of 64.

I find on the town records the name of Dr. Thomas Lowthrain, late of Perth, Scotland, who died December 15, 1749 ; also of Dr. Jabez Fuller, who died Oct. 5, 1781.

MEDWAY.

Medway was incorporated in 1713.

Dr. Aaron Wight studied medicine with Dr. Thomas Kittredge of Andover, and married Dr. K.’s daughter for his first wife. He was afterwards twice married, and had ten children. He was an intelligent physician, and devoted considerable attention to surgery. In consequence of disease in one of his lower limbs, he was under the necessity of having it amputated. The operation was successfully performed by Dr. Miller, of Franklin. In early life, it is believed about the year 1780, he had a smallpox hospital in Medfield, in connection with Dr. Jerauld. He died in 1813, aged 71.

Dr. Abijah Richardson was born in Medway, August 30, 1752. In 1770, he entered Harvard College, where he remained two years. He then commenced the study of medicine. Having completed his studies, he entered the Revolutionary Army in the capacity of Surgeon’s Mate, under Dr. Samuel Whitwell. He afterwards received a Surgeon’s commission, and continued in the service of his country until the close, or near the close, of the war. He then settled as a physician in Medway, and there continued in the active and successful performance of the duties of his profession until his death, which occurred May 10, 1822, at the age of 70.

Few physicians pass their professional career more honored and beloved. He was an eminent botanist ; indefatigable in the pursuit of knowledge, and with a memory so retentive, that he seldom forgot what he had once acquired. He performed the duties of every relation in life with the most scrupulous exactness. He was affable, communicative, benevolent ; but not obtrusive. He was an honor to his profession and

to his country ; and for many years to come his memory will be held in grateful recollection in the vicinity in which he lived.

He married Mercy Daniels, by whom he had a numerous family. She still lives, at the age of 97, receiving from her grateful and prosperous country a handsome annual pension as a token of gratitude for services rendered by her husband in "the day which tried men's souls."

NEEDHAM,

Dr. William Deming appears to have been the earliest physician in Needham. He married Rebecca Peabody in 1759, and died of the "great cold," or influenza, probably in 1789.

Dr. Peter Fisk was a physician in West Needham. He removed to Warwick, and there died.

Dr. Isaac Morrill, of West Needham, was son of Rev. Isaac Morrill, of Wilmington. He was born in 1747, and died in May, 1839, aged 92. He settled in Natick before the commencement of the Revolutionary war. He was eminent in his profession, and highly respected in every relation of life. A short biographical notice of his character was published in the Boston Chronicle and Patriot, May 22, 1839.

Dr. Timothy Fuller was a native of Needham. He graduated at Harvard College in 1787, studied medicine with Dr. Willard, and settled as a physician in East Needham, where he died in 1799.

Dr. Samuel Adams, who received the degree of M.B. at Harvard in 1794, and M.D. in 1802, settled in East Needham. He removed thence to Boston, and afterwards to Cincinnati, where he died in 1845, aged 74.

Dr. Samuel Gould was for a time at East Needham. He removed to West Roxbury, where it is said he died in 1850 or 1851.

Dr. Josiah Noyes succeeded Dr. Gould. He was born at Acton, Oct. 8, 1811 ; studied medicine with Dr. Dunbar, of Westmoreland, N. H. ; received the degree of M.D. at Dartmouth College in 1825, and settled in East Needham, where he continues to reside. He is distinguished for his acquaintance with botany.

BELLINGHAM.

Bellingham was set off from Dedham May 11, 1719, and incorporated November 27. The Congregational Church over which Rev. Jonathan Mills was ordained pastor in 1727, has long been extinct.

Dr. John Corbett was the earliest physician in Bellingham. He married Mehitable Rockwood,

Dr. John Corbett, son of the preceding, was born March, 1704 ; became a physician, resided in his native place, and practised medicine,

He married Hopestil Chapin, and died in 1794, aged 90. Dr. Corbett was a very successful practitioner, possessed a large landed estate, and had great influence in the town. He was a man of ardent feelings and uncommon decision of character. Upon the first news of hostilities with the mother country, he took a decided stand in favor of liberty. During the last half of his life, he labored under a serious disability in regard both to speech and locomotion; yet as his bodily health was otherwise good, by means of a kind of chair fixed on wheels, and a well-trained horse, he continued to do a large business in his profession, and finally died of old age, after having seen the snows of ninety winters.

Dr. John Scammell was the son of Dr. Samuel Leslie Scammell, of Milford. His mother was Bethiah, a daughter of Dr. John Corbett. His grandfather, Dr. Samuel Leslie Scammell, emigrated to this country from Portsmouth, England, A.D. 1738, and settled in that part of Mendon now called Milford, and died A.D. 1753, aged 45. He left two sons, Dr. Samuel Leslie, already alluded to, and Alexander. This Alexander distinguished himself in the Revolution; was at one time one of General Washington's adjutants, and was officer of the day at the execution of Andre. Wishing for more active service, he took the colonelship of a select corps, and was slain a few days before the surrender of Cornwallis, aged 37. A monument is erected over his grave at Williamsburg, Va., and he is pictured among a group of officers in one of those large paintings which grace the walls of the Rotunda at Washington. He was an intimate friend of the first General Dearborn, who named his son, General Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn, after him.

Dr. John Scammell studied medicine with his father in Milford, and after the death of his grandfather, Dr. Corbett, removed to Bellingham to take possession of a farm inherited from him. He was a man of a most amiable disposition, and was eminently skilful and successful in his profession. He was for nearly forty years a cotemporary with Dr. Thurber, whose residence was very near to his own; and during this whole period these two excellent physicians lived on terms of the most perfect harmony. In the various relations of life he was highly esteemed, discharging the duties of those relations in a manner alike honorable to himself and acceptable to the community in which he lived. In April of the year preceding his death he unfortunately fractured the neck of the thigh bone, which never united. He died March 9, 1845, aged 84.

Dr. Daniel Thurber first settled in East Bellingham, but soon removed just within the limits of Mendon. He was very highly esteemed as a man and medical practitioner. He was a good writer, but lacked the gift of public speaking. He was warm in his friendships, and per-

haps it should be added equally implacable when offended. The dishonorable practitioner found in him no countenance. He was firm and decided in his principles and practice ; and his advice in cases of difficulty was much sought by his medical brethren. In 1825 he received from Brown University the honorary degree of M.D., and the following year a similar degree was conferred upon him at Harvard. As a further proof that his memory is still gratefully cherished, it may be added, that a medical association has been recently formed in the town of Milford, composed of physicians in that and the neighboring towns, who, to show their respect for his character, have taken the name of the "Thurber Medical Association." Dr. Thurber died of paralysis, in 1836, aged 70 ; and an obituary notice of his character was at that time promised, but, if I am correctly informed, has never been published.

Dr. Jonathan Thayer, who was born in 1717 and died about 1760, was a physician in Bellingham, and is represented to have held a good standing in his profession.

A few other physicians have practised there. Among these may be named Dr. William Whitaker and Dr. Collins ; also Dr. Timothy Merriam, who soon removed to Framingham, where he died in 1833, aged 76.

WALPOLE.

Walpole was set off from Dedham in 1724.

Dr. Ebenezer Doggett was the earliest physician there. He was a native of Attleborough, and a grandson of John Doggett, of Watertown, who removed to Martha's Vineyard in 1642. He was much respected, and had a large circle of practice not only in Walpole, but also in Foxborough and Wrentham. To this latter place he finally removed, where he died of cancer in the breast, Feb. 26, 1782.

Dr. Rhodes, of Boston, succeeded Dr. Doggett, and remained two years.

Dr. Seth Mann, a native of Walpole, and medical pupil of Dr. Doggett, was the next physician. He died about 1826.

Dr. James Messinger died in Walpole in 1821, aged 51.

Dr. Jonathan Wild was a native of Randolph, and a medical pupil of Dr. Moses Baker, of that town. He commenced business in Walpole in 1780. He was a worthy man ; somewhat credulous in his temperament, but notwithstanding this infirmity a useful physician and good citizen. He was born in 1753, and died in October, 1833.

Dr. Knapp resided in Walpole a few years, and then removed to Cumberland, R. I.

Dr. Abel Wilder succeeded Dr. Knapp, but soon removed to Mendon.

Dr. Jonathan Ware was for a time a resident in Walpole, previously to his settlement in Milton.

Dr. Ebenezer Stone settled in Walpole in 1824, where he still remains in successful practice.

Dr. Henry B. Tappan took up his residence in Walpole in 1849, remained one year, and then removed to Central America, where he died in 1852.

WRENTHAM.

Wrentham was originally a part of Dedham, from which town it was set off March 27, 1661, when it contained but sixteen families; but it was not incorporated until October 15, 1673. In consequence of an Indian war, which occurred in 1676, the settlement was for a time abandoned. In 1680 the inhabitants returned.

I regret that my inquiries respecting the early physicians in this town have been less successful than I could have desired. I proceed, however, to present such facts as are in my possession.

Dr. Benjamin Ware was born in Wrentham, July 8, 1688, and died Jan. 16, 1744, aged 56. He married Melatiah, relict of Jonathan Ware, Esq., who after his death became the wife of Col. Ephraim Leonard, of Mansfield. Dr. Ware was reputed to have been a worthy physician and much respected as a citizen.

Dr. Cornelius Kollock is supposed to have been the second resident physician in Wrentham. He married Sarah, daughter of Rev. Henry Messinger, who after her husband's death became the wife of Rev. Benjamin Caryl, of Dover. Dr. Kollock died January 22, 1754.

Dr. John Druce was a native of Brookline; graduated at Harvard College in 1738; studied medicine at Watertown; settled as a physician in Wrentham about the year 1740; married Margaret Trowbridge, of Newton; had six children, one of whom, Mrs. Nancy Guild, is still living at the age of 98, having been born Feb. 9, 1755, to whom I am indebted for the facts respecting her father. He was much respected as a physician, and died of consumption at the age of 55.

Dr. Daniel Fisher died March 29, 1774.

Dr. Samuel Brenton died Jan. 3, 1791, aged 34. He was a young man of great promise, and much respected.

Dr. John Fales died April 9, 1803, aged 61.

Dr. Jenckes Norton died May 1, 1796, aged 37. His residence was in North Wrentham.

Dr. Cyrus Bean was the son of Rev. Joseph Bean, had a respectable but not a widely-extended practice, and died April 5, 1813, aged 54.

Dr. James Mann was a native of Wrentham, and for more than twenty years a distinguished practitioner of medicine and surgery in that place. He graduated at Harvard College in 1776, and M.D. Brown University, 1815. He studied medicine in Boston under the direction of Dr. Danforth. Immediately after completing his pupilage, he joined the Revolutionary Army as a surgeon, but after three years' service his enfeebled health compelled him to resign. "He was a scientific practitioner—bold and intrepid, but not adventurous." He was the author of two essays to which the first Boylston medical prizes were awarded in 1804, and "his subsequent writings received the decided approbation of the profession." "Dr. Mann was appointed a hospital surgeon in the United States Army in 1812; and was at the head of the medical staff on the northern frontier during the late war. The arduous duties of this highly responsible station he discharged with distinguished ability, and to universal satisfaction." He died in New York, Nov. 1832.

Dr. Samuel Bugbee graduated at Brown University in 1802; M.D. 1816; and died July 14, 1841, aged 60. He was a medical pupil of Dr. Mann; was an active and enterprising physician, and enjoyed a wide circle of professional business. His death was occasioned by a disease of the heart, an account of which was published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vol. XXV., p. 64.

Dr. Luther W. Sherman was a native of Wayland, where he was born in 1806. He studied medicine with Dr. Ebenezer Ames, of that place, and first settled as a physician at Falmouth. In 1835 he removed to Wrentham, where he continued until his death, which occurred October 29, 1837. He had the reputation of a conscientious and devotedly pious man; was much respected as a physician; and bore repeated afflictions with exemplary patience and Christian resignation.

A few other physicians have resided in Wrentham for longer or shorter periods, most of whom have removed to other places.

FRANKLIN.

Franklin, originally a part of Wrentham, was set off from that town August 29, 1737, and incorporated March 2, 1778.

Dr. Ebenezer Metcalf, the eighth child of Elder Michael Metcalf, was born June 1, 1727, and "died March 30, 1801, in the 74th year of his age." He was a physician in Franklin, of good reputation. He had one son only, Paul Metcalf, born in 1766, and died August 9, 1793. He also was a physician, and lived in his native town.

Dr. John Metcalf was a physician in Franklin for half a century, from 1758 to 1808. He was born in Wrentham, July 3, 1734; was a

descendant of Michael Metcalf, who emigrated from England in 1637. Dr. Metcalf was a medical pupil of Dr. Joseph Hewes, of Providence. He had in Franklin and vicinity an extensive and successful practice, and was the medical instructor of several pupils, among others of Dr. Amos Holbrook, of Milton. For three years he was representative to the General Court, and was a colonel of militia in the time of the Revolution. In 1808, when he had become too infirm longer to sustain the labors of his profession, he removed to St. Albans, Vt., where he died Aug. 22, 1822, aged 88.

Dr. William Pitts Metcalf, son of Dr. John Metcalf, was born June 30, 1775; studied medicine with his father, and settled in Franklin, where he still resides, but has never been very actively engaged in medical pursuits.

Dr. Lewis Le Prillette was a French surgeon. He came to this country in 1782; resided for a time in Norton, then at Roxbury, and finally in Franklin, where he died 29th July, 1804, æt. 54. His remains were carried to Roxbury for interment, where a handsome stone with a Latin inscription marks their resting place.*

Dr. Nathaniel Miller was a native of Swanzey, where he was born April 23, 1771. In 1775 his parents removed to Rehoboth. At the age of 19 he was apprenticed to Dr. Le Prillette, then a resident in Norton, and eminent in his profession as a surgeon. He soon acquired, by his industry and mechanical ingenuity, the confidence of his instructor, which in time ripened into the most intimate friendship, and was continued during his life. Having completed his medical studies, by the advice of his patron, Dr. Miller went to St. Domingo with the intention of establishing himself in his profession. But his education and habits were not adapted to that sphere. He found little sympathy and less employment in his new abode; his funds became exhausted; and after some months passed in very trying circumstances, he returned to the United States and once more received substantial aid from his early benefactor. For a time he became an inmate of Dr. Le Prillette's family at Jamaica Plain, affording him such aid in his business as he required. At length, both Dr. Miller and his patron settled at Franklin, about the year 1799 or 1800; and from that period his eminence as a surgeon may be said to have been established. He was accustomed to perform all the more important surgical operations from the commencement of his career. He was a very cautious, ordinarily successful, but by no means

* The following is a copy of the inscription:—"In memoria Doctoris Ludovici Le Prillette, Mass. Med. Soc. Socii, nati Nante in Gallia, Oct. 10, Anno Domini MDCLL. Advenit Americam MDCCCLXXXII. Obiit carcinomate in glandula prostata, Julii die 29, MDCCCIV., Ætat. sue 54. Celeberrimus in Chirurgia."

rapid operator. He rested his reputation on the correctness of his diagnosis, and upon the final result of his operations, rather than upon their number, or the celerity with which they were performed. He was observing, cautious, inquisitive, rather than original. He knew how to draw out from other men the knowledge they had acquired, and, having revolved it thoroughly in his own mind, and incorporated it with his own thoughts, to appropriate it to practical purposes, as an original treasure. He prided himself on the delicacy of his touch, by which he was sometimes enabled to detect deep-seated matter, when it had eluded the observation of others; and thus by a timely operation to save a valuable life which might otherwise have been lost. He was peculiarly careful of the reputation of those physicians who confided in his judgment and called him in consultation. He adopted it as a principle, in every such case, to sustain the reputation of the physician who sought his counsel, and if possible to elevate it in the estimation of the patient. How much more honorable is such a course than the low, pettifogging, envious spirit, which seeks to add to its own fame by destroying the good name of a brother in the same calling. In consequence of his habit of careful observation, he was sometimes able to detect among tumors usually considered malignant, varieties which might be successfully removed. Such a case occurred in Harvard many years ago. A lady was afflicted with an abdominal tumor, supposed to be malignant, extending from the epigastrium to the pubis, which he removed in 1808 or 1809 by a protracted and careful dissection. The tumor was situated under the muscles, but external to the peritoneum; was of a reddish color, and in appearance "had some resemblance to kidney," weighing $11\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. The cure was complete; the case in all respects remarkable, and should have been published. The facts were related to me by Dr. Ephraim Stone, still living, and now of Boston, who was present and assisted in the operation and had the care of the patient during the progress of the cure. The patient survived many years.

Dr. Miller frequently performed the operation of lithotomy, commonly but not always using the gorget. In the early periods of his practice, before the establishment of eye infirmaries, he was much consulted in diseases of that organ, and had the reputation of a successful oculist. Ordinarily he preferred the extraction of the lens to its depression in cases of cataract.

Dr. Miller was exceedingly happy in his domestic relations. As a wife and mother, Mrs. Miller possessed very remarkable accomplishments. "The heart of her husband safely trusted in her." He left two sons eminent in the profession, and an example of devotion to his favorite

pursuits worthy of all commendation. His death occurred June 10, 1850, at the age of 81.

ROXBURY.

Roxbury was incorporated Sept. 28th, 1630. Among its earliest and most respected inhabitants was George Alcock. He was made Freeman May 16th, 1631, having filed his application the preceding autumn. In December, 1640, he made his will, directing that his debt of £40, which he had in his hands, should be paid to his son John; also that his house and lands should be improved for the best for the education of his children, and the half of the revenue of the farm, together with the wisest improvement of his £40, to educate his son John in "learning"; the other half to educate son Samuel. Thus highly did our puritan ancestors prize good learning. Next to piety towards God, a good education was the highest boon they sought for their offspring. "Child," said the mother of Dr. Increase Mather, as he left his home for the College, "if God make thee a good Christian and a good scholar, thou hast all thy mother ever asked for thee."* Such were the views of George Alcock respecting his sons, and his hopes were realized.

Dr. John Alcock, the eldest son of George, graduated at Harvard College in 1646, pursued the study of medicine, settled as a physician in Roxbury, was a man of worth and much respected. He died in 1667, at the age of 42.

Dr. Samuel Alcock, a brother of the preceding, graduated at Harvard College in 1659, became a chirurgion in Boston, and died March 18, 1677, aged 39.

Dr. John Glover, a native of Dorchester, who graduated at Harvard College in 1650, received a medical degree at Aberdeen, and settled as a physician at Roxbury. He was a benefactor of Harvard College, and is supposed to have died before the close of the century.

Benjamin Tompson was the son of Rev. William Tompson of old "*Brantry*," where he was born July 6, 1642. He graduated at Harvard College in 1662, and settled at Roxbury, where he became eminent as a physician and school-master, with some celebrity as a poet also. This town, indeed, which Johnson says "the Lord so blessed, that in the room of dismal swamps and tearing bushes, they have very good fruit trees, fruitful fields and gardens," seems to have been fruitful in poets also. About the year 1639, "the New English Reformers" committed the Psalms of David to the reverend clergymen of Roxbury and Dorchester to be rendered into metre suitable to be sung in the churches.

* Pierce's History of Harvard College, p. 51.

This task they undertook and accomplished, yet it would seem not quite to the satisfaction of the good Mr. Shepard of Cambridge, who, after having examined their version, expressed his opinion of it by addressing to them the following couplet:—

“ You Roxb’ry poets, keep clear of the crime
Of missing to give us very good rhyme;
And you of Dorchester, your verses lengthen,
But with the text’s own words, you will them strengthen.”—*Magnal.*, i., 367.

In the town records of Braintree the death of Mr. Tompson is thus noticed:—“ Mr. Benjamin Tompson, practitioner of physick for above thirty years, during which time he kept a grammar school in Boston, Charlestown, and Braintree; having left behind him a weary world, eight children and twenty-eight grand-children, deceased April 13, 1714, and lieth buried in Roxbury, aged 72.”*

Dr. Jonathan Davies came, it is understood, from Maine. He graduated at Harvard College in 1738. On the College catalogue his name is written Davis. His reason for changing the spelling is unknown; perhaps from some whim or dislike to persons bearing the same name. He married Sarah Williams, and had but one child, that died in infancy. The tradition is, that for a considerable period he attended most of the families in the town, and that he was a reputable physician.

Dr. Thomas Williams was born at Roxbury, October 12th, 1736; graduated at Harvard College in 1757; studied medicine under the direction of Dr. Thomas Williams of Deerfield; returned and settled in Roxbury on the ancestral estate, and continued in the practice of his profession, with reputation and success, until September 10th, 1815, when he suddenly died. On that day, being in his usual health, he had occasion to visit a patient at Quincy. Just as he was about to return, he complained of indisposition, and asked for a glass of water; and having drank it, he immediately fell from his chair and expired without a groan. Thus closed the career of a physician who was distinguished through a long life for his industry and devotion to professional pursuits.

Dr. John Bartlett was born in Boston in June, 1760; graduated at Harvard College in 1781; studied medicine with Dr. John Warren; commenced business in Roxbury in 1787, and continued in practice until

* EPITAPH.

Sub spe immortal.
Ye herse of Mr. Benjamin Tompson,
learned school master and physician,
and ye renowned poet of New England,
Obiit Aprilis 13, anno Domini 1714,
et ætatis suæ 74;

mortuus, sed immortalis.
He that would try,
What is true happiness indeed,
must die.

within five years of his death, which occurred November 26, 1844, at the age of 84. The occasion of his relinquishing business was the loss of sight by cataract, not the loss of health. He was much esteemed by his patients and friends; possessed a pleasing countenance and manners; was rarely absent from his circle of business; was totally opposed to new theories and new modes of practice; and being entirely satisfied with his daily routine of duty, he usually succeeded in giving equal satisfaction to his employers.

Rufus Wyman, M.D., was born at Woburn, July 16, 1778; graduated at Harvard College in 1799; and studied medicine in Boston under the direction of Dr. Brown and Dr. John Jeffries. He first settled as a physician in Boston, where he was for one year an assistant of Dr. Jeffries. He then, on account of a commencing pulmonary disease, removed to Chelmsford, where he was much beloved and had an excellent reputation as a physician.

In 1817 he was appointed Physician and Superintendent of the Mc Lean Asylum at Charlestown. To the best interests of that institution he was unremittingly devoted during the seventeen years in which he was its Superintendent; having been absent during the first twelve years but one night from his post.

In 1834, owing to his ill health, it became necessary for him to resign a situation which he had held to the universal satisfaction of the Trustees and the public; and he removed to Roxbury, with an intention of devoting himself to agricultural pursuits. Until the close of life, however, he continued to be much consulted in relation to the sick, especially the insane. He died of bronchial inflammation, June 22, 1842, aged 64.

Dr. Wyman was admitted a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1803; was elected its President in 1840 and 1841; delivered the annual discourse, on the subject of Mental Philosophy as connected with Mental Disease, in 1830; was a friend and advocate of temperance, and was, at the time of his death, President of the Norfolk County Temperance Society.

Dr. Nathaniel Shepard Prentiss was born at Cambridge, August 7th, 1766; graduated at Harvard College in 1787; studied medicine with Dr. Israel Atherton of Lancaster; first settled at Marlborough, where he remained nine years in full practice, and then removed to Roxbury; was appointed Principal of the Grammar School, an office which he retained until after the death of Dr. Williams in 1815. For thirty years he was Town Clerk of Roxbury; was occasionally a Representative to the General Court, and for some years had frequent calls as a medical practitioner. He was faithful to every trust; a man greatly beloved. He is still

living, resident with a daughter in West Cambridge, calmly and confidently waiting his summons to depart.

Dr. Charles Williams Windship died at Roxbury, August 27th, 1852. He was the son of Dr. Amos Windship, of Boston; graduated at Harvard College in 1793; was a medical pupil of Dr. Samuel Danforth; afterwards went abroad, and received a medical degree at Glasgow in 1797. On his return he settled at Roxbury, and with the exception of three years passed in Cuba and eight years in Boston, there continued until his death. In stature he was rather below the medium size, was very neat and particular in his dress, possessed good natural abilities, and was well read in his profession. He was very decided in his opinions, and by some was represented as a little "*heroic*" in his practice. He had some very warmly-attached friends, but never sought or acquired a large circle of professional business.

Dr. Peter Gilman Robbins was the son of Rev. Chandler Robbins, of Plymouth, where he was born in 1779. He studied his profession at Andover, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Kittredge, and commenced the practice of his profession at Lynn. In 1814 he removed to Roxbury, and there continued until his death, which occurred May 18, 1852. He was admitted a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1809, and sustained the reputation of a good physician and "truly benevolent and good man."

Dr. Samuel Rogers, graduated at Harvard College in 1828, M.D. 1831, was admitted a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1832, and died in 1849, aged 41.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Parker graduated at Harvard College in 1831, M.D. 1839; died in 1844, aged 33.

Dr. Anthony Woodside, M.M.S.S. 1844, settled at Roxbury, and died about 1850.

WEST ROXBURY.

West Roxbury includes what was formerly the second and third parishes of Roxbury, or Jamaica Plain and Spring Street Parishes. In early times few physicians made either of these parishes a permanent residence.

Dr. Lemuel Hayward, father of Dr. George Hayward now President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, was born at Braintree, March 22, 1749; graduated at Harvard College in 1768, and died March 20, 1821. Before commencing the study of his profession, he was engaged one year as "Master" of the Public School at Milton, and had under his tuition several pupils who became distinguished in after life; among them Hon. Edward H. Robbins, and Rev. Thomas Thacher. Having ful-

filled this engagement to the universal satisfaction of his employers, he commenced and pursued the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Joseph Warren. On the completion of his studies, by the advice of his preceptor he settled at Jamaica Plain, where his practice soon became extensive and lucrative. In 1775 he was appointed a hospital surgeon by Congress, but resigned his commission on the removal of the army southward. As early as 1776 he commenced the practice of inoculating for the smallpox. He continued to reside at West Roxbury until 1783, when he removed to Boston. He was elected a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1784, and through life sustained an excellent reputation.

It is said that a Dr. Willard succeeded Dr. Hayward, respecting whom I have been unable to obtain any satisfactory information.

Dr. Lemuel Le Baron was the son of Rev. Lemuel Le Baron, of Rochester. He graduated at Brown University in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Thomas Kittredge, of Andover; settled at Jamaica Plain in 1803, and in 1814 removed to Roxbury street. There he continued to reside until 1821, when he became melancholy and partially deranged. He then removed to his native village, and afterwards to Rochester, N. Y., where he died in 1848, aged 73. He was, during his residence at Roxbury, an active and judicious physician, and his deplorable malady was a subject of much lamentation.

Dr. Andrew Foster was the son of Bossinger Foster, Esq., of Cambridge. He graduated at Harvard College in 1800, M.D. 1812, and first settled at Dedham. He removed to Jamaica Plain in 1815; was an excellent man, well educated, a pleasant companion, and universally respected. He never acquired in Roxbury a large share of professional business. After the death of his brother, Dr. Thomas Foster of Cambridge, he removed to that place, where he died in 1831.

Dr. Abijah Draper appears to have been the earliest resident physician in the southerly part of West Roxbury. He was a native of Dedham; graduated at Brown University in 1797; studied medicine with Dr. Ames; settled in West Roxbury in 1802; had a good medical reputation and business; was highly respected as a citizen, and was much employed in town affairs. He died March 26, 1836, aged 60.

BROOKLINE.

Brookline appears to have been a part of Boston from its first settlement. It was incorporated in 1705, but long before that period became the residence of a few families.

Dr. Thomas Boylston was the son of Thomas Boylston of Water

town, and was the earliest physician or surgeon in Brookline. He was probably born January 26, 1637, and died in 1695, at the age of 58. He was the father of Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, the earliest inoculator for smallpox in the British dominions. The latter, although a citizen of Boston, was much employed as a physician in his native town, and indeed throughout all the region. He lived to the age of 86, having survived all his calumniators. His remains were deposited in the family tomb at Brookline, on which is inscribed the following just tribute to his memory :

“Sacred to the memory of Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, F.R.S., who first introduced inoculation into America. Through a life of extensive benevolence, he was always faithful to his word, just in his dealings, affable in his manners, and after a long sickness in which he was exemplary in his patience and resignation to his Maker, he quitted this mortal life in a just expectation of immortality, March 1, 1766.”

Dr. William Aspinwall was born in Brookline, May 23, 1743 ; graduated at Harvard College 1764 ; commenced his studies in Connecticut under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Gale, and completed them in Philadelphia, where he received a medical degree in 1768. He then returned to his native town. In the Revolutionary war he was a regimental surgeon, and for some time deputy director of the hospital at Jamaica Plain. He was personally engaged at the battle of Lexington ; and after the death of Dr. Boylston succeeded him as an inoculator for smallpox, and established in Brookline a permanent hospital. In 1788 he obtained a grant to keep his establishment open, not only when the disease was epidemic, but at all times. His success inspired universal confidence. He was well skilled in his profession. When vaccination was first introduced, after a careful examination of its claims, he said to Dr. Waterhouse—“ This new inoculation will take from me a handsome annual income, yet as a man of humanity I rejoice in it.” Dr. Aspinwall became wholly blind from cataract some years before his death, which occurred April 16, 1823, at the age of 80.

Dr. William Aspinwall, Jr., son of the preceding, graduated at Harvard College in 1804, studied medicine, and became associated with his father in business. He died April 7, 1818, aged 33.

Dr. William Eustis graduated at Harvard College in 1830, received a medical degree in 1838, and became a resident in Brookline, where he died in 1843.

I have thus, gentlemen, noticed, as fully as your time and my means of information would permit, the general character of most of the physicians in the County who have preceded the present generation.

In this sketch, the names of some worthy men may have been overlooked. Others may have received a more or less extended notice than they were entitled to by their relative merits. Much of the information communicated having been received by tradition, it can scarcely be expected that all errors should have been avoided. If any such have been noticed by members of the Society now present, or should they be detected hereafter, I shall feel grateful to any gentleman who will kindly point them out, and favor me with the means of correcting them. Permit me, in conclusion, to acknowledge thankfully my obligations to all those persons, in the profession and out of it, who by correspondence, furnishing documents, and in various other ways, have afforded me essential aid in prosecuting the inquiries the result of which I have now presented.

Gentlemen,—If the effort, which at your suggestion and in accordance with your appointment, I have made to revive the memory of those who have heretofore filled the stations we now occupy, shall prove acceptable to you and to other medical brethren of the County; especially if it shall have a tendency to elevate our noble profession in view of the public and to stimulate any of our successors to a more faithful performance of duty, I shall feel that my humble labors have met an ample reward.

A P P E N D I X .

NOTE A.—Page 5.

THE Oath of Hippocrates is preserved in the Hippocratic writings, and is substantially as follows. I use the somewhat free but elegant translation of Professor Felton of Cambridge, as given in his recent course of Lectures before the Lowell Institute, on "The Life of Greece."

"I swear (calling on the gods to witness) that I will fulfil religiously, according to the best of my power and judgment, the solemn promise and the written bond which I now do make. I will honor as my parents the master who has taught me this art, and endeavor to minister to all his necessities. I will consider his children as my own brothers, and will teach them my profession, should they express a desire to follow it, without remuneration or written bond. I will admit to my lessons, my discourses, and all my other methods of teaching, my own sons and those of my tutor, and those who have been inscribed as pupils and have taken the medical oath, but no one else. I will prescribe such a course of regimen as may be best suited to the condition of my patients, according to the best of my power and judgment, seeking to preserve them from anything that might prove injurious. No inducement shall ever lead me to administer poison, nor will I ever be the author of such advice. I will maintain religiously the integrity and purity both of my conduct and my art. Into whatever dwellings I may go, I will enter them with the sole view of succoring the sick, abstaining from all injurious conduct, and observing the strictest propriety and purity of demeanor towards all. If during my attendance, or even unprofessionally in common life, I happen to see or hear of any circumstances which should not be revealed, I will consider them a profound secret, and observe on the subject a religious silence. If I observe this oath and do not break it, may I enjoy prosperity in life, and in the practice of my art, and obtain general esteem forever. Should I transgress and become a perjurer, may the reverse be my lot."

NOTE B.—Page 6.

Boston Society of Natural History. First April Session. The President in the chair. The Secretary read a paper in behalf of Dr. W. J. B. on the sedative action of the poison of the rattlesnake, of which the following is an extract. Dr. Oates, of St. John's River, Fla., having frequently witnessed the effect of the use of alcoholic spirits upon the bites of venomous animals, and particularly that of the rattlesnake, and perceiving that not only was the action of the poison arrested, but that under such circumstances the system seemed scarcely capable of being intoxicated with alcohol in any form—was desirous of reversing this experience by trying the effect of this poison when introduced into the system of a per-

son thoroughly intoxicated. This he performed through the stomach, instead of the circulation direct. For this purpose he carefully extracted a small quantity of the poison from a healthy active snake, and incorporated it into several bread pills. He then intoxicated himself considerably with brandy, after which he took one of these pills; its effect was soon to diminish the pulse and to completely neutralize the intoxication. He afterwards repeated the experiment, but with larger doses of both brandy and poison-pills; and although the intoxication was pretty deep, three of the pills so reduced the pulse and depressed the whole system, that from danger of collapse powerful stimulants had to be quickly resorted to. These and other subsequent trials fully showed him the profound sedative action of this product, which is probably unequalled by that of any other known substance.

In this connection I may add (says the author of the preceding communication) that a case was stated to me a short time since, by a physician knowing authentically the circumstances, of a man in Athens, Ga., who while lying in a very intoxicated state, under a fence, was bitten by one of these animals; the result was, that very speedily the intoxication was neutralized, and although the snake was very large and active, no harm followed the wound.—*Daily Evening Traveller*, May 17, 1853.

A CATALOGUE OF THE MEMBERS

OF THE

NORFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY;

INCLUDING THOSE PHYSICIANS, MEMBERS OF THE STATE SOCIETY, WHO
RESIGNED OR DIED WHILE IN THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

Admitted.	NAME.	Residence.	Re-sig'n'd.	Died.	Age.
1810	*Adams, Peter	Stoughton.	1827	1832	76
1818	Alden, Ebenezer	Randolph.			
1852	Allen, Ira	Roxbury.			
1789	*Ames, Nathaniel	Dedham.		1822	82
1839	†Archer, Jason H.	Wrentham.			
1812	*Aspinwall, William J.	Brookline.		1818	33
1812	Bacon, Amasa D.	Sharon.			
1798	†Bartlett, John	Roxbury.	1842	1844	88
1831	Bartlett, Henry	Roxbury.			
1827	*Briggs, John K.	Dedham.		1843	49
1820	Brown, Artemas	Medway.			
1819	*Bugbee, Samuel	Wrentham.		1841	60
1817	†Bugbee, William B.	Quincy.			
1833	*Carpenter, Simeon B.	Dedham.		1843	42
1833	†Chickering, Jesse	Jamaica Plain.			
1841	Clapp, Erastus H.	Wrentham.			
1837	Cotting, Benjamin E.	Roxbury.			
1850	Cummings, Ariel S.	Roxbury.			
1847	Cushing, Benjamin	Dorchester.			
1826	Darling, Elijah	Roxbury.			
1847	Dickerman, Lemuel	Medfield.			
1819	*Draper, Abijah	West Roxbury.		1836	60
1852	Draper, Abijah W.	West Roxbury.			
1827	†Duggan, William B.	Quincy.			
1818	Faulkner, George	Jamaica Plain.			
1807	†Fifield, Noah	Weymouth.			
1817	Flint, John Sydenham	Roxbury.			
1851	Fogg, David S.	So. Dedham.			
1806	†Fogg, Daniel	Braintree.	1818	1830	71
1844	Foster, Fordyce	Cohasset.			
1840	Foster, James W.	Foxboro'.			
1848	Francis, Tappan E.	Brookline.			
1852	Fuller, Lemuel	East Weymouth.			
1808	*Gardner, Joseph	Dorchester.		1809	28
1847	Gibbens, Daniel L.	Wrentham.			
1823	Harris, Luther M.	Jamaica Plain.			
1820	*Hewins, James	Medfield.		1846	64
1852	Hill, John B.	Dorchester.			
1853	Hitchcock, Joseph G. S.	Foxboro'.			
1800	†Holbrook, Amos	Milton.	1830	1842	89
1841	Holmes, Christopher C.	Milton.			
1813	Howard, Frederic	Randolph.			
1832	*Howard, John C.	Dedham.		1844	39
1823	Howe, Appleton	South Weymouth.			
1844	Hubbard, Benjamin	Weymouth.			
1837	Hubbard, Levi	Medfield.			
1833	Jarvis, Edward	Dorchester.			
1842	Knight, William	Medway.			
1790	*Le Prillette, Lewis	Roxbury.		1805	54
1840	Mann, Benjamin	Roxbury.			

Admitted.	NAMES.	Residence.	Re-signed.	Died.	Age.
1843	Mann, Cyrus S.	Stoughton.			
1846	Martin, Henry A.	Roxbury.			
1849	Maynard, John P.	Dedham.			
1815	† Metcalf, Paul R.	Wrentham.	1800		
1804	* Miller, Nathaniel	Franklin.		1850	79
1838	Miller, Erasmus D.	Dorchester.			
1843	Morse, Horatio G.	Roxbury.			
1834	Munroe, A. LeBaron	Medway.			
1849	* Nichols, Paul R. Jr.	Roxbury.		1852	
1832	Noyes, Josiah	Needham.			
1850	Nute, Timothy J.	Roxbury.			
1839	* Parker, Benjamin F.	Roxbury.		1844	33
1852	Pattee, William S.	Quincy.			
1851	Perry, Ira	West Medway.			
1822	* Phipps, Thomas	Quincy.		1832	46
1813	† Prentiss, Nathaniel	Roxbury.	1844		
1840	Richards, Jacob, Jr.	Braintree.			
1804	* Richardson, Abijah	Medway.		1822	70
1809	* Robbins, Peter G.	Roxbury.		1852	73
1832	* Rogers, Samuel	Roxbury.		1849	41
1837	Salisbury, Stephen	Brookline.			
1811	† Scammell, John	Bellingham.	1822	1844	84
1842	Scammell, Lucius L.	Franklin.			
1822	† Shurtleff, Samuel A.	Brookline.			
1852	Shurtleff, Augustine	Brookline.			
1836	Spear, Henry A.	Dedham.			
1824	Spooner, John P.	Dorchester.			
1783	* Sprague, John	Dedham.		1797	84
1844	* Stanley, Selim A.	Franklin.		1852	43
1836	Stetson, James A.	Quincy.			
1848	† Stimson, Jeremy	Dedham.	1852		
1815	* Stone, Daniel	Sharon.		1842	69
1827	Stone, Ebenezer	Walpole.			
1847	Streeter, Joseph H.	Roxbury.			
1852	Taft, Caleb S.	Canton.			
1803	† * Thaxter, Robert	Dorchester.	1847	1852	75
1842	Tirrell, N. Quincy	North Weymouth.			
1838	Tucker, Simeon	Stoughton.			
1781	* Tufts, Cotton, Pres't.	Weymouth.		1815	84
1853	Waldock, James	Roxbury.			
1838	† Wales, Bradford L.	Randolph.			
1822	* Wales, Jonathan	Randolph.		1843	65
1847	Walker, Joseph B.	East Stoughton.			
1829	Ware, Jonathan	Milton.			
1850	Warren, E. Lewis	Weymouth.			
1837	Weld, Christopher Minot	Jamaica Plain.			
1838	Whitney, Samuel S.	Dedham.			
1834	Wight, Danforth P.	Dedham.			
1826	Wild, Charles	Brookline.			
1850	Wild, Edward A.	Brookline.			
1814	Wild, Jonathan	Braintree.			
1852	Wiley, Adams	Roxbury.		1815	79
1783	* Williams, Thomas	Roxbury.		1852	79
1803	* Windship, Charles W.	Roxbury.			
1833	Windship, Charles M.	Roxbury.			
1831	† Wing, Benjamin F.	Jamaica Plain.			
1839	Wood, Theophilus E.	East Randolph.			
1844	* Woodside, Anthony	Roxbury.			
1832	Woodward, Ebenezer	Quincy.			
1850	* Wyman, Charles F.	Stoughton.		1851	27
1808	* WYMAN, RUFUS, Pres't.	Roxbury.		1843	65

* Deceased.

† Resigned.

‡ Not in practice.

Sixty-nine of the members of the Society, are in active professional practice.

Beside these, there are twenty-two other men who are to a greater or less extent in the practice of medicine in the County of Norfolk. Ten of these are supposed to have received a proper medical education, and are graduates or licentiates, and in good standing in the profession. The remaining twelve are supposed to be irregular, or to have received an imperfect education and are not in good standing.

Whole number of members of the Medical Society, past and present, within the County of Norfolk, - - - - -	111
Deceased, - - - - -	33
Now living, - - - - -	78
Retired from practice, - - - - -	8
Active members of the Society in practice, - - - - -	69
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Irregular, or having (as supposed) an imperfect education, - - - - -	12
Practitioners or candidates for medical practice in Norfolk County, - - - - -	92

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY, FOR 1853-54.

DR. EBENEZER ALDEN, *President.*
 DR. APPLETON HOWE, *Vice President.*
 DR. EDWARD JARVIS, *Secretary.*
 DR. DANFORTH P. WIGHT, *Treasurer.*
 DR. LEMUEL DICKERMAN, *Librarian.*

DR. EBENEZER STONE,	} <i>Censors.</i>
DR. HENRY BARTLETT,	
DR. BENJAMIN MANN,	
DR. SIMEON TUCKER,	
DR. STEPHEN SALISBURY,	

DR. HENRY BARTLETT,	} <i>Counsellors.</i>
DR. EBENEZER STONE,	
DR. JONATHAN WARE,	
DR. DANFORTH P. WIGHT,	
DR. BENJAMIN MANN,	
DR. ERASMUS D. MILLER,	
DR. BENJAMIN E. COTTING,	
DR. EDWARD JARVIS,	

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* Not Joseph, as printed by mistake.